IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Trent J. Brundage

Application No.: 09/833,013

Filed: April 10, 2001

For: DIGITALLY WATERMARKED MAPS
AND SIGNS AND RELATED
NAVIGATIONAL TOOLS

Examiner: P. Parthasarathy

Date: April 27, 2006

Art Unit: 2136

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING APPEAL BRIEF

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Sir:

Introductory Comments:

Please enter the following amendments prior to consideration of the accompanying Appeal Brief. Entry is believed proper since this Amendment only cancels claims.

Amendments to the Claims:

1-6 (canceled).

7. (original): An apparatus to read digital watermarks embedded within a map, the map being divided into a plurality of areas, with each area comprising at least one embedded digital watermark including location information for the respective map area, said apparatus comprising:

a global positioning system receiver to determine a location of said apparatus;

an input device to capture an image of at least a portion of the respective map area;

memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to extract the location information from the at least one embedded digital watermark from the captured image of at least a portion of the respective map area, and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information;

electronic processing circuitry to execute the software instructions; and

an output device to indicate the correlation of the apparatus location and the captured watermark location information.

8. (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said apparatus is a handheld apparatus.

9. (original): The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the output device provides one of an LED indication, arrow indication, audio indication, grid indication, and visual display.

10. (previously presented): A method of making a representation of a geographical area comprising:

dividing a representation of a geographical area into a plurality of areas; and

steganographically encoding plural-bit location data within each of the plurality of areas, wherein the location data is unique per each of the plurality of areas.

11. (previously presented): A method of navigating with a map embedded with digital watermarks comprising:

machine-reading steganographic indicia from optical scan data representing the map, the steganographic indicia including location information which uniquely identifies the map in which the steganographic indicia is embedded in;

comparing the location information to a physical location; and

providing feedback to correlate the location information and the physical location.

12. (previously presented): A method of correlating a physical location to a map location, the map being divided into a plurality of areas, with each area comprising at least one embedded digital watermark including location information for the respective area, the method comprising:

extracting the location information from the watermark at the map location;

comparing the extracted location information to global positioning system (GPS) received coordinates of the physical location; and

providing feedback based on the comparison of the physical location and the map location.

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the location information comprises an index, and said method further comprises indexing a database with the index to identify location information.

14 - 23. canceled.

24. (previously presented): An apparatus to read digital watermarks embedded within a map, the map being divided into a plurality of areas, with each area comprising at least one embedded digital watermark including location information for the respective map area, said apparatus comprising:

a global positioning system that determines a location of said apparatus;

an input to receive optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the respective map area;

memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to extract location information from the optical scan data of at least a portion of the respective map area, and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information;

electronic processing circuitry to process the software instructions; and

an output to indicate a correlation of the apparatus location and the watermark location information.

25 - 30. canceled.

31. (previously presented): A method comprising:

inputting a map location to a computing device, wherein the map includes a plurality of digital watermarks embedded therein, and wherein said inputting a map location to a computer device comprises reading at least one of the plurality of digital watermarks, the watermark comprising the map location;

determining a current location;

in the computing device, determining a relationship between the input map location and the current location; and

providing directions from the current location to the map location.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein said determining a current location comprises receiving GPS signals to determine the current location.

REMARKS

Claims 7-13, 24, 31 and 32 remain pending in the application. Claims 7-13 and 24 are under final rejection. We greatly appreciate the indication that claim 31 and 32 are allowed.

Claims 14-23 and 25-30 are canceled herein without prejudice.

We reserve the right to present these and similar claims in one or more continuing applications. And we expressly traverse the outstanding (now moot) rejection of these claims. These claims are being canceled merely to simplify issues on appeal.

Entry of this amendment is believed proper since it only cancels claims. See, e.g., 37 CFR 41.33(b)(1).

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons noted in the accompanying Appeal Brief.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-469-4685 with any questions.

Date: April 27, 2006   Respectfully submitted,

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